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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 220
By Burks

A RESOLUTION To recognize and commend the Arnold Engineering Development Center on its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, It is the privilege of this General Assembly to pause to salute those organizations that are wholly dedicated to protecting the American people and defending our Nation's democracy; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 2001, the rededication ceremony for the fiftieth anniversary of the Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) at Arnold Air Force Base will be held; and

WHEREAS, The world's largest and most complex collection of flight simulation test facilities, the AEDC has tested virtually every high performance aerospace system the Department of Defense has ever used; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, Congress authorized \$100 million for the construction of the AEDC; a site was selected for the new Center at the Army's old Camp Forrest near Tullahoma and Manchester, the site chosen for its abundance of land, water, and power; and

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WHEREAS, The test center, named after five-star General of the Air Force, Henry "Hap" Arnold, World War II Commander of the Army Air Forces, represents his legacy to make American airpower the best in the world; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 1951, President Harry Truman acknowledged the importance of the test center to America's aerospace programs in his personal dedication of the Center, giving a major speech on the significance of the work that would be performed there for national defense: "The scientists who work here will explore what lies on the other side of the speed of sound. This is part of our effort to make our air power the best in the world--and to keep it the best in the world"; and

WHEREAS, For the past fifty years, the Center's wind tunnels, jet and rocket altitude test cells, space chambers, ballistic ranges, and other special aerospace test facilities have played a vital role in the development and sustainment of every high performance aircraft, missile, and space system in use by all of the United States military services today; and

WHEREAS, The AEDC has also been involved in the development of every NASA-manned space system and many satellites; since the Center is a national test asset, it also supports development of commercial systems to help keep America's lead in commercial aircraft and spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-seven of the Center's fifty-eight test facilities are unique in the United States, with fourteen unique in the world; and

WHEREAS, AEDC's unique facilities and highly skilled government and contractor workforce will play a vital role in upgrading current aerospace systems and developing future ones essential to our Nation's defense and leadership in civilian aerospace; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we recognize the Arnold Engineering Development Center upon reaching

its fiftieth anniversary and commend the Center for its considerable contributions to the development of America's cutting-edge aerospace weapons systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.